



# Buckle Up Kentucky

## FACT SHEET

846 Individuals  
Died in Kentucky  
Crashes in 2001

63% of Vehicle  
Occupants Killed in  
2000 Were Not  
Restrained

Every Other Day A  
Young Person Is Killed  
In Kentucky

A Majority Of Young  
People Do Not  
Buckle Up

Kentucky Seatbelt  
Usage Now At 62%

20 Year Olds Are  
At Greater Risk

Kentucky  
Auto Crashes  
Cost \$5.4 Billion

846 individuals died in Kentucky motor vehicle crashes in 2001. Ninety-seven (97) of those individuals were killed between and including the Thanksgiving and New Year's holiday periods. 823 individuals died during 2000 in Kentucky motor vehicle crashes.

Of those vehicle occupants killed in Kentucky crashes in 2000, 63% were not restrained.

During 2001, a young person between the ages of 16-25 was killed on average every other day in a Kentucky motor vehicle crash.

157 young people under the age of 21 were killed on Kentucky roadways during 2001. Of this number, 73% were not restrained.

Kentucky's seatbelt usage rate is now 62%. It is estimated that a 15 per cent increase in seatbelt usage would save 75 lives a year.

91% of 20 year olds who were killed in vehicle crashes in 2001 were not buckled up.

In 2000, according to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration formula, auto crashes cost Kentucky \$5.4 Billion in medical expenses, lost wages and associated quality of life issues.

86% Of Those  
Ejected From  
Vehicles  
Were Killed

Number 1 Killer  
Of Children.

Child Safety Seats Are  
Over 70% Effective In  
Preventing Fatalities.

If The Driver  
Buckles Up,  
So Will The Children.

African American  
Males At  
Greater Risk.

Every Hour Someone  
Dies In America Who  
Is Not Buckled Up

Seat Belts Save Lives



Buckle Up  
Kentucky

One argument against wearing a seatbelt is that you may be thrown from a car during a crash and escape injury. According to Kentucky State Police records, 86% of vehicle occupants were killed who were either totally or partially ejected in car crashes during 2000.

Automobile crashes are the No. 1 killer of children age 12 and under. Many of these fatalities could be avoided if children were properly secured by a child safety seat or safety belt.

Correctly used car safety seats are over 70% effective in preventing fatalities and 67% effective in reducing the need for hospitalization.

Research shows that if a driver is unbuckled, children riding in that vehicle are buckled up only about 20% of the time. Conversely, when the driver is buckled up, 80% of the time the children riding with them are also buckled up.

National studies show that African American males are nearly twice as likely to die in a motor vehicle crash because of lower seatbelt usage rates.

Failure to buckle up contributes to more fatalities than any other single traffic safety behavior. Every hour someone in America dies in a car crash simply because they didn't buckle up.

Increasing seatbelt use is the single most effective thing we can do to save lives and reduce injuries on Kentucky roads.

## Sources

*Buckle Up America*  
*Drive Smart Kentucky*  
*Kentucky State Police*  
*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*  
*National Transportation Safety Board*  
*National Safety Council*